

Congress of the United States**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2004

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We applaud you for your commitment to double federal funding for abstinence-until-marriage education to help teenagers lead healthy, happy and fulfilling lives. We will do everything in our power to help you achieve this worthy goal.

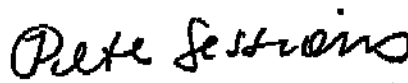
As you noted in your State of the Union speech, three million American teenagers contract a sexually-transmitted disease (STD) each year. This is a tragedy of our time that must be swiftly and effectively addressed. We second your call to work together to send our children the message that abstinence until marriage and fidelity afterwards is the only certain way to prevent STDs.

The non-profit *Heritage Foundation* reported last week that for every \$12 federal and state governments spend to teach teenagers about safe sex and contraceptives, only \$1 is spent to encourage abstinence and fidelity. Doubling the federal investment in abstinence-until-marriage education will help teenagers make the most responsible life choices for health and happiness.

Your courage and dedication in proposing this initiative will help save more teenagers from the heartache of infertility, the pain and embarrassment of contracting an STD, the regret of giving too much of themselves too soon, and the anguish of being sexually abused if the abuse can possibly be prevented. Many excellent abstinence programs not only teach teenagers the facts of life, but also how to protect themselves by recognizing and rejecting inappropriate sexual pressure.

Thank you again for your sincere caring and commitment to our nation's children. We look forward to working with you to help more teenagers make the healthy choice of abstinence before marriage and fidelity afterwards. In light of the deficit, we will also be glad to work with you to find offsets for the critical funding increases in abstinence education.

Sincerely,

Mark Landon

~~1/11/04~~

Glen Davis

Shirley Pearce

Scott Garrett

Steve Pearce

Mark Kennedy

Jo Baulby

Jo Layman

Jim Lynn

Brad Pitt

Charlie Norwood

Steve King

~~Paul Blumenthal~~ W. Cade Clark

Jon R. Pitts

Chip Pickering

John Shanley

Tom Osborne

Karin R. Roney

Glady Forbes

Joan Hayes

Daniel Vitter

John Sullivan

John T. Delitto

Robert Kunk

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2004

Chairman Ralph Regula
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, and Education
2358 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

As you prepare the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005, we ask you to fully support the President's request to double the federal investment in abstinence-until-marriage education to \$270 million. We also want to thank you for your generosity toward this worthy cause in past years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, three million American teenagers contract a sexually-transmitted disease (STD) each year. This is a tragedy of our time that must be addressed to protect children. Thousands of young women who contract the STD Chlamydia will enter marriage without knowing they cannot conceive children. Many more will battle cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a highly-infectious STD that now claims the lives of more American women than HIV/AIDS. Studies have also shown that teenagers who engage in early sexual activity are more likely to become depressed, attempt suicide, and have problems forming stable marriages in the future.

We agree with the President that "abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually-transmitted diseases," and "decisions children now make can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us – parents and schools and government – must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children." The success of abstinence-until-marriage programs can be measured by federal data revealing that virginal teenagers now outnumber sexually-active ones. The Youth Risk Behavior survey found that the number of teenagers who say they have never had sexual intercourse rose by 10 percent between 1991 and 2001. In addition, the pregnancy rate among unwed teenagers fell by at least seven percent in the past decade. We must continue this success by increasing our investment in authentic abstinence education.

The non-profit *Heritage Foundation* reported last week that for every \$12 the federal and state governments spend to teach teenagers about safe sex and contraceptives, only \$1 is spent to encourage abstinence and fidelity. Doubling federal funding for abstinence-until-marriage education will help more teenagers make responsible life choices for health and happiness. In the interest of maintaining fiscal discipline, and in light of the growing deficit, we also ask that the funding increases be offset. We would be glad to work with you to help find offsets. This is a rare

opportunity to directly impact the lives of our nation's children. Doubling the investment in abstinence education will help protect teenagers from the heartache of infertility, the pain and embarrassment of contracting an STD, the regret of giving too much of themselves too soon, and the anguish of being sexually abused if the abuse can possibly be prevented.

Many abstinence programs not only teach teenagers the facts of life, but also how to protect themselves by recognizing and rejecting inappropriate sexual pressure and emotional blackmail. These extraordinary programs help teenagers stay healthy, develop strong self-esteem, and improve their future prospects. We would be glad to arrange a meeting for you with the leaders of the abstinence-until-marriage education movement to learn more about these programs that are helping teenagers across the nation make the best choices for their long-term health and happiness.

We look forward to working with you to double the federal investment in abstinence-until-marriage education this year. Thank you again for your commitment to our nation's children.

Sincerely,

Lee Terry

John Davis

Chris Parn

Scott Barnett

Mark Kennedy

Pete Sessions

Joe Bully

Mark Andrus

John Haywood

Jim Ryan

Bradlett

Charlie Nowak

11M AAA

Ed Smith

Steve Pearce

Steve King

Phil B. Arendt

W. Gaddis

Long R Pitts

Chip Pickering

Jim Ga 5-19

Tom Onorine

Ken Berry

Glady Forbes

Robin Hayes

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2004

Chairman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Tauzin:

As you work with the Senate to reauthorize the 1996 welfare reform law, we ask for your full support of the President's initiative to double federal funding for abstinence-until-marriage education to \$270 million. We also want to thank you for your dedication to this worthy cause in past years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, three million American teenagers contract a sexually-transmitted disease (STD) each year. This is a tragedy of our time that must be addressed to protect children. Thousands of young women who contract the STD Chlamydia will enter marriage without knowing they cannot conceive children. Many more will battle cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a highly-infectious STD that now claims the lives of more American women than HIV/AIDS. Studies have also shown that teenagers who engage in early sexual activity are more likely to become depressed, attempt suicide, and have problems forming stable marriages in the future.

We agree with the President that "abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually-transmitted diseases," and "decisions children now make can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us – parents and schools and government – must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children." The success of abstinence-until-marriage programs can be measured by federal data revealing that virginal teenagers now outnumber sexually-active ones. The Youth Risk Behavior survey found that the number of teenagers who say they have never had sexual intercourse rose by 10 percent between 1991 and 2001. In addition, the pregnancy rate among unwed teenagers fell by at least seven percent in the past decade. We must continue this success by increasing our investment in authentic abstinence education.

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John Hayworth

Jim Ryan

Brad Pitt

Charlie Norrel

1 ML AAA

Ed Smith

Steve Pearce

Steve King

Robert B. Anderson

W. Caddell

Larry R. Hall

Chip Pickens

John G. Hall 3-1-19

Tom Osborne

Kevin B. Brown

J. Roddy Gibbs

Robin Hayes

